MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHR SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government is aware that Food Crops were damaged as a result of recent floods in some States.

(b) Out of the damaged crops, Wheat, Paddy, Millets, Oilseeds and Pulses crops are covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS).

(c) There is no scope of diversion of the payment of indemnity claims to the third parties because, such payments are made by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) by cheques drawn in favour of the Credit Disbursing Agencies/Banks which in turn credit them to individual bank accounts of farmers whose crops are covered under the CCIS.

(d) Steps contemplated to help the farmers in utilizing the post-flood soil conditions to maximise the yields of rabi crops include, optimum use of available moisture by growing those varieties of various crops which are suitable for late sowing conditions.

High Price of Steel Produced in India

338. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will he Minister of STEEL AND MINES be leased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although he basic raw materials are available ithin the country, the prices of arious types of steel produced in India re much higher than these produced ven in countries like Japan and orea who are to resort to import of aw materials for producing steel;

(b) whether any study has been nducted to identify the main reasons sponsible for this high price factor Indian steel; if so, details thereof; id

(c) what steps are being taken to use reduction in cost/price of the eel produced in India and within hat time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The domestic prices of Indian Steel net of taxes and levies are broadly comparable with domestic prices in major countries like Japan, U.S.A. and EEC countries. In India, apart from the producer's costs, the price of steel includes various levies such as the freight equalisation fund, the Steel Development Fund, the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund, excise duty, etc.

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the main producers in India to contain the cost of production include raising capacity utilisation, increasing productivity, improving techno-economic performance including energy saving, and improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment.

Development of Major Urban Centres of the Country

339. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that density of population in the major cities *viz.*, Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and Madras have grown disproporationate to its existing infrastructures;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted with a view to ensure propoer development of big cities, in particulars; and

(c) what schemes are being formulated to ensure healthy expansion of these major urban centres in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Growth of population in these major cities has resulted in increased pressure on the existing infrastructure facilities.

(b) and (c) Development of big cities is the concern of State Govt/ UTs. and the concerned Planning Departments and Development Authorities have prepared their respec-

tive Master Plans for the purpose. The State Governments have also taken steps to draw Metropolitan Regional Plans for healtthy development of metropolitan cities.

Financial assistance is being provided to various State Governments under the schemes of Urban Basic Services; Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums and World Bank assisted Urban Development Projects. In addition the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns is also in operation which will help check the influx of population into these major urban centres by making increased investment on infrastructure and other essential facilities in small and medium towns.

Steps to Meet Shortage of Pig Iron

340. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of pig iron in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) During the current year against an estimated demand of 16.75 lakh tonnes indigenous availability of pig iron has been estimated at 13.5 lakh tonnes.

(c) The level of supplies is being improved by increasing production in the coming months and by the import of about 2 lakh tonnes of pig iron.

Setting up of New Food Processing Industrial Units

341. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to encourage setting up of new food processing industrial units;

(b) whether Government are considering single window clearance for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government are keen to accord clearance for establishing food processing units under a single window concept and the State Governments are being suitably advised in this regard.

Statement

The facilities announced to the food processing industries are as follows:

(i) Food Processing Industries including packaging and preservation will be placed in Appendix-I.

(ii) Broad banding of industries will be permitted.

(iii) Food Processing Industries will be treated as high priority sector for the purposes of bank finance.

(iv) The processing industry will be able to get raw material by forming cooperatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials. They necessarily will have to provide extension service, seels, fertilizers etc., so that they are assured of proper supply of raw materials They may also obtain some land for demonstration purposes subject however, to the existing Land Ceiling Laws in the country.